REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the claims have been amended to clarify a term and to no longer recite any multiple dependencies. Subject matter of the canceled multiple dependencies is also now set forth in new dependent claims 6-8.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:SNS\rle

I:\ATTY\SNS\293542us-PR.DOC

Gregory J. Maier

Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423